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TRAINING-SCHOOL NOTES



AN Allerton memorial room has been furnished by the graduates of the Rochester Homeopathic Hospital for the pupil nurses and is most attractive and restful.

A REFERENCE library for the nurses has been added to the training school of the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, Syracuse, by Miss Young, recently superintendent of nurses.

THE Passavant Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, Ill., reports the completion of a prosperous year. All expenses have been met and several hundred dollars have been spent in improvements.

THE graduating exercises of the Michael Reese Training School were held in the memorial hall of the hospital on September 25th. A dinner was given by the alumnae association to the graduating class during the following week.

MERCY HOSPITAL, of Benton Harbor, Mich., has moved into a new hospital building and has organized a training school, with Miss Ethelyn Bearce, Hahnemann Hospital, Chicago, as superintendent, and Miss Kate McCormack, Cleveland, as assistant.

THE Little Falls, N. Y. Hospital and the Thanksgiving Hospital of Coopers-town, N. Y., have affiliated with the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, Syracuse, N. Y., for the purpose of giving their nurses a course in pediatrics. Each of these hospitals is pledged to send three members of its graduating class to serve in the children's pavilion for a period of six weeks.

THE following course of required reading is taken from the bulletin of information of the Blessing Hospital, Quincy, Ill. It may prove suggestive to other schools:

First Year: Best articles in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. "Dust and Its Dangers."—Prudden. "Water and Ice."—Prudden. "Chemistry of the Household." Selections from "Martin Chuzzlewit."—Dickens.

Second Year: Best articles in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. "Story of Bacteria."—Prudden. "A Sermon in the Hospital."—King. "Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds in the Home."—Conn. "Uarda."—Ebers. "The Human Nature Club."—Thorndike.

Third Year: Best articles in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. "Nursing Ethics."—Robb. "Personal Hygiene."—Pyle. "Notes on Nursing."—Nightingale. "Life of Florence Nightingale."—Tooley.

THE following open letter was addressed to the president of the State Normal and Industrial College of North Carolina by Miss Wyche, superintendent of nurses at Watts Hospital, Durham:

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL
COLLEGE

The importance of thoroughly trained nurses is now, as never before, being recognized in the South. The favor with which this profession is being received is attested by the larger number of young women who are applying for training in our hospitals.

To place nursing on the plane of a profession, rather than that of a trade, our nurses must have better preparation, both general and technical.

Some apply whose general education is decidedly deficient, but let us grant that applicants are prepared to begin hospital work, all of us who have to do with the work in our smaller hospitals know under what difficulties classes for nurses are conducted. Where the bulk of the teaching falls, as is usual, upon one nurse or superintendent and a few doctors whose hands are already full, systematic instruction is next to impossible. An emergency case may take the nurse at the lecture hour. The same emergency may take the physician should it happen to be his lecture hour. With her routine hospital duties the pupil nurse is often too fatigued to properly comprehend the simplest subjects. Teaching is very exacting work; and for one nurse to teach half a dozen different subjects and still meet the many demands made upon her time and strength is an impossibility. Teaching requires special fitness, and not every good physician, or nurse of good executive ability, is a good teacher.

It is apparent, I believe, that in the dozen or more hospital training schools in North Carolina, not only are there many applicants whose previous training is deficient, but many subjects are being taught half way, many of which subjects should have been mastered before applying for admission to a hospital. These are the conditions that confront the hospital training schools of our State, all of which are run in connection with small hospitals whose resources are limited.

As a solution of the difficulty it is proposed to offer at the Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro, N. C., a preparatory course for nurses. The advantages of such a course are apparent. Many of the subjects are already being taught there, in a systematic way, by experienced teachers. The thorough grounding in elementary chemistry, physiology, etc., would be of incalculable benefit, both in training study and in lightening the burden of the overworked physicians who have so far borne their part cheerfully and without pay. The saving of time of both superintendent and physician, when a pupil enters the hospital, would be a great factor in favor of the course. Better prepared applicants in our hospital means the saving of the health of the nurses, a saving of money to the hospital in a more economical use of expensive materials and appliances. The hospital owes it to the nurse to give her thorough instruction, and to give it in advance of its being thrust upon her through the necessities of hospital work.

The proposed course roughly outlined might be as follows:

Anatomy and physiology.

Personal and household hygiene.

Home and hospital economics.
Domestic science and dietetics.
Elementary biology.
Chemistry as related to medicine.
Physical culture.

Classroom demonstration by nurses on bed making, bandaging, the preparation and sterilization of surgical dressings, etc.

Frequent lectures by physicians or nurses, on subjects of interest and benefit to the student nurses.

Systematic courses of reading on nursing and allied subjects. The course to cover a school year of nine months at the Normal and have a credit of six months on a hospital course of three years.

Similar courses are being successfully carried on in several large hospitals, and have been added as an elective at Drexel Institute and Simmons College. Teachers' College, New York, has recognized the need of better training for nurses by the establishment of a course in hospital economics in which those who expect to teach this subject will have systematic instruction.

The subjects proposed in this preparatory course should appeal to all who are interested in more sanitary and a more rational way of living in the homes of our state, as well as those directly interested in hospital work. The eyes of thinking women are turning as never before to the problems of home making. Shall we not give them an opportunity to learn, in school, the more elementary facts of health, of nursing, and of dietetics, rather than that they shall have to learn them in the hard school of experience? This course should be so arranged that the large number of young women in the Normal may avail themselves of its privileges whether they expect to enter the smaller profession of nursing, or go, as most of them will, into the larger field of home makers. Such subjects, properly taught, should have a culture value equal to that of literature or history.

There are difficulties, doubtless, in connection with the satisfactory working out of such a course, yet they are infinitesimal as compared with the great possibilities involved. This problem is accordingly submitted for the consideration of the educational department of the Normal and Industrial College and the hospital training schools of North Carolina.

MARY L. WYCHE.

